

LEVIN FOLK MUSIC CLUB

AGM 4th August 2017

Present: Jeremy Cooper, Anne Campbell, Andrew Salter, Chris Lloyd, Barbara Lucas, John Gray, Martie Gray, Cavan Haines, Dale Webb, John Jenkins, Val Jenkins, Paul Webster, Simon Critchley, Kevin Watson, Keith Heginbotham, Colin Brown, Jean Hollis, Charlie Boyce, as well as visitor Norm Daniel.

Welcome: Colin Brown welcomed the members and visitors.

Apologies: Alastair Pain, Rona Cooper, Jenny and Rod Cavaye, Jo Sheffield, Glad Passmore, René and Renée Van de Weert.

Previous minutes: Dale moved that the minutes of the 2016 AGM be accepted as read and approved. Seconded Cavan Haines.

Matters Arising:

The committee had been asked at the previous AGM to investigate other possible venues for the club to consider. Dale presented a detailed report on the venues visited by several committee members over the past year, and provided a list comparing the four so far checked out. Other venues which had not as yet been considered were suggested – the Savage Club, the Senior Citizens Hall, and possibly the use of a school hall (as yet not considered at all.) Further discussion follows under General Business.

Committee Report (as the club does not have a designated Chairperson)

Jean Hollis presented the committee report which was accepted. Moved Andrew/Seconded Paul

Treasurer's report: Val presented her two reports – a detailed report and a summary report, both of which were accepted as read. She moved that these reports be approved. Seconded by Cavan.

Colin thanked Val on behalf of all the committee members for the great detail she went in to on behalf of the club in providing the financial report.

Elections:

Dale is resigning from the committee, however will continue to arrange bookings and liaise with performers, and promote the club on the website and on Facebook. Dale (together with Colin) does a wonderful job to keep members up to date with local music events. She will also continue organising and promoting house concerts which have met with recent success. Jean thanked Dale on behalf of all the club and presented her with a small gift (a cyclamen).

Chairperson Nomination.

There were no nominations for the position of chairperson. For the past year the committee has elected one of its members to run each meeting, and at this stage will continue to do so.

Secretary Nomination:

Jean Hollis was the sole nomination for secretary and was elected unanimously.

Treasurer Nomination:

Val Jenkins was the sole nomination for treasurer and was elected unanimously.

Committee Nominations: Paul Webster, Kevin Watson, Colin Brown, Keith Heginbotham, John Jenkins and Cavan Haines have all been nominated for a further year on the committee.

Colin Brown will continue as editor of the monthly newsletter.

Simon Critchley has agreed to join the sound team, (currently Paul Webster and Kevin Watson.)

Motion: There was one motion to be considered by the meeting, relating to the guidelines for the member floor spots, which had been previously circulated to all members.

There was a question from the floor about whether the guidelines should include a statement about whether a performer could appear more than once in the course of the year. Members felt that it was probably not necessary to include this specific detail. On some occasions it is possible that a particular member could be part of more than one group performing in a floorspot. So far this has not occurred and it will be left to the committee to decide on appropriate action if this is required.

The members also discussed whether a performer should be permitted to use pre-recorded music as part of their item. It was pointed out that it could take extra time to set up in some cases, although this has not occurred so far. It was agreed that with changing technology this is something that will be requested in future and the committee should be aware of this possibility.

Voting on the motion:

The motion “*that draft guidelines for member floor spots be approved and displayed on our website*” was moved by Colin/Seconded by Kevin.

General Business:

1. Venue: In the course of the meeting the new chief of the Scottish Society had been asked to provide the most up-to-date statement on the situation with the hall. Chris Hartwell reported that their Society was going to make repairs to the roof initially. This should have been done in July but bad weather had prevented the work getting started. Following their

forthcoming debutante ball, the new committee were to develop a five year plan which would aim to increase membership, form stronger relationships with other Scottish clubs and generally lift their profile. The hall is a focal point and an asset which they wish to continue to use.

Our members questioned the security of the hall, the current rental, the fire extinguishers, lack of alarms and sprinklers and the general state of the hall. Chris had already mentioned the condition of the carpark, and asked that the new committee should provide him with a list of all the aspects that we felt needed attention, so that he could bring these to the attention of his Scottish Society which he expected would go ahead and make alterations/repairs. He also said that their Society was keen to maintain good relations with groups like the LFMC and that the club would be informed if there were any changes made which could affect us.

Dale gave the meeting a full report on the RSA as a potential venue. It is a very comfortable site, and with the use of the bi-fold doors it is easily separated from any other activities happening there. Any events in the restaurant or other social areas are usually finished soon after 7 pm, so unlikely to intrude on a folk club concert. The bar could be available until perhaps 8.30pm if we wished to make that arrangement, but this was not obligatory. The RSA has a suitable stage, lighting, and is conveniently central with very good parking. The club would be able to use two very spacious storage rooms, as well as the kitchen which has a dishwasher as well as the usual cooking facilities. There is also the potential for the club to gain new members simply from the foot traffic that is likely to pass through the RSA. Issues needing to be further examined were whether any sound from outside might interrupt performances, and the fact that the RSA is not really a economic site to hold the club night, which normally has fewer than 20 attendees.

Some members expressed concern about the loss of tradition should we move to a new venue, although others noted that when a move was made many years ago from a site in the town to the Scottish Society Hall there was no major change in attendance.

The members suggested that the club should try having the November concert at the RSA to see how it worked as a venue. The committee will go ahead with this plan and ask Dale to make the booking for us.

2. Door Take at Concert nights

Over the past year we have been aware that the money collected at the door on concert nights has never been sufficient to pay the performers 60% of the door take, and they have always received payment of a lower amount which we provide on our sliding scale. While we do still receive requests from bands to play on our concert night, Dale is having to “chase” others, and she is conscious that perhaps they are drawn to other clubs where payment is higher than what we have been offering. In Dale’s research into what other clubs charge their members, it is clear that they all charge at least \$10 and often more. In the two house concerts we have had, the audience had all been willing to pay \$15 entry, and this meant that the performers received a good recompense for their entertainment. It was also felt that the audience numbers have dropped a little this year, although it was pointed out that this is probably because there is a lot more on offer these days and people were making choices depending on their interests and their income.

For the reasons given above, Dale would like to see our door charge raised.

Jeremy said he would prefer that we use some of our club funds if we felt we needed to pay more to performers, rather than increasing our door charge.

The committee will look at our current sliding scale and see whether we think we should pay more to the performers.

3. Newsletter. Chris gave a vote of thanks to Colin for the outstanding newsletters that he produces each month. These are really appreciated by all members.

4. Next Meeting

The next AGM will be scheduled before 31 August 2018

Meeting closed 9.05 pm.